

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP April 22, 1973

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 167
*The Call to Worship and Invocation
The Scripture -- Mark 16
*The Gloria Patri
*The Apostles Creed -- Page 23
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Sacrament of Baptism
The Hymn of Meditation 165
The Meditation -- "Tragedy To Triumph!"
Act VII - The Tomb 341
The Communion Hymn 341
*The Order of Holy Communion -- Page 32
*The Seraphic Hymn -- #522
The Institution of the Lord's Supper
The Consecration of the Elements
The Communion (Please retain the elements
until all are served)
*The Prayer of Thanksgiving
*The Hymn of Response 174
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mercersburg Association Meeting will be held
Sunday April 29th. Anyone desiring to go may
still do so.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We join in the happiness of Paul and Bonnie
Liddick as they bring their son Paul to the
church for Christian Baptism.

The lilies have been placed in loving memory
of:

Ernan Wolpert by Mrs. Violet Wolpert
Mrs. Elizabeth Spease by Esther Spease
Florence Haas by J. Earl and Erla Haas
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Mumper by Mr. & Mrs. Dennis
Fisher
Mr. William Borcharding by Thelma & Bill
Borcharding
Elmer Holland by George & Helen Achenbach
Mr. & Mrs. LeRue Hess by Mr. & Mrs. Frank
Forrer, Sr.
Mrs. Mary D. Smith by Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey
Smith
Mr. & Mrs. John Achenbach by George & Helen
Achenbach.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the altar today are in loving
memory of departed members of the Mite
Society.

A plant is placed by Mrs. J. Rynkiewicz
in memory of M. Zula Swartz.

Please fill out the church survey forms &
bring them back to church next Sunday to
receive your Key 73 window sticker. If you
do not do this someone working on the survey
will be stopping at your house for this
information. We need several volunteers to
help with the survey. If you would like to
help contact the Pastor.

CHURCH WELCOMES ALL VISITORS

Call to Worship: The Lord has risen! The Lord
has risen indeed: Hallelujah! Amen.

Invocation: Praise be to thee, O Father Almighty,
who didst bring forth thy Son from the dead and
hast exalted him to eternal glory. Praise be to
thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, thou who art the re-
surrection and the life. Praise be to thee, O
Holy Spirit, who dost make God alive in our hearts.
All praise and thanksgiving be to thee, O most
blessed Trinity, now and forevermore, world with-
out end. Amen.

Chancel renovation; for those not here, any donat-
ion accepted. Memorials only. - SHEETS ON TABLE.

Will have Crusade for Christ in Dun. May 20 to
24th. Keep in mind.
May 6, Rick and some youth in service.

EXTRA CONF. BULLETIN IF FAMILIES WOULD LIKE

"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act VII The Tomb

Mark 15:6b "He has risen, He is not here!"

Today we reach the end of our Lenten Drama and it takes place at a tomb probably in a garden just outside of Jerusalem. We find the women coming to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus and as they approach it they are wondering who will roll away the stone. It would seem more logical ~~that~~ they would have made these preparations ahead of time and would have taken several of the disciples along to do the heavy work involved. But perhaps as in most cases where a loved one has died, the thing that is the most logical is the thing that is not usually done.

But in any event we find them coming to the tomb and upon reaching it, they discover the stone rolled away, and going into the tomb in their utter curiosity, they discover not the body of their beloved Jesus, but an angel. And the angel tells them the most startling news, that, "He has risen, He is not here." Try to picture in your mind if you will what must have gone through their minds. If we were to visit a cemetery someday and ^{upon coming} ~~when we came~~ to the grave of someone we knew, we would see the earth dug up, and an empty coffin in the grave and someone in white sitting beside the grave, telling us our friend or relative was no longer buried there, we would be really startled.

We can see then what the reaction of these two women must have been. They left the tomb and we are told they said nothing to ~~no one~~ about this. And probably with good reason, for anyone hearing such a wierd report would naturally doubt the sanity of anyone telling such a thing.

Then Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, one of the women who had gone to the tomb, and she told others, but they did not believe her. They probably told her she was still distraught from the shock of the death of Jesus and was imagining things.

Then He appeared to two others as they were walking along

a country road, and they too told others, but were not believed. And then finally we are told that he appeared to the eleven as they sat eating at table, and he took them to task for their unbelief.

Jesus then gave them the commission to go out and to preach and to baptize in His name. And then He was taken up into heaven. Thus ends a story of tragedy that has turned into a story of triumph. In all of this drama we see the plotting and conniving of men to accomplish what they have set out to do. We see the weakness, and the unbelief of men. We see the complete humanity of Jesus that He suffers and bleeds like anyone else. We see His ability to follow the will of His Father even when it means His own destruction and death. But finally at the closing curtain we see the triumph of God over all. All that man has tried to do, all of the conniving and scheming and plotting has gone for naught. All of the preparations so carefully planned to permanently silence this one individual, have been thwarted. The most glorious words in the entire Gospel stories of Jesus are those the angel speaks to the women at the tomb, "He has risen, He is not here."

But even with this glorious declaration we see that the human thing is to doubt that such an occurrence could take place. We find his followers unable to accept the glorious news of His resurrection. They had been with Him in many of the events that had taken place in the last three years and they had seen Him do some very astonishing things. They saw him heal people, raise them from the dead, feed crowds with a little food, walk on the water and many others. But now they were faced with the greatest feat He ever performed and they were unable to believe it.

~~After they had seen Jesus and talked with Him they came~~

We read that when He appeared to them at table, He upbraided them for their unbelief, and rightly so. After all they had been with Him all of those months and seen His deeds and why was this act any more unbelievable? But you see the disciples were not the only ones who did not

beliefs. There have been some very noted men who have questioned the existence of God and denied it emphatically. These people are like the arrogant young man who was conversing with some of his atheistic friends in a hotel lobby, (Illustration of belief and proof).

But you see this is the human way to understand things. If you cannot prove it with outright physical evidence, it never happened. Contrast this type of thinking and unbelief with the mother of a prisoner named Thomas Carter. (Illustration of mother Carter's prayer and faith).

Here is an example of a mother whose belief in what God can do in the life of an individual was unshaken, even though her son was a ~~wick~~ worthless criminal. This is the faith that the Resurrection calls us to have.

But the joy of the Resurrection is to be found in the wonderful declaration of the angel, "He has risen, He is not here." From this we know that Jesus became the conqueror of death and that because of this, man must no longer fear death. For when we have passed beyond death, we pass on to life eternal, to be with God. This is the joyful message of Easter. This raises us above speculation, and hope, ^{with hope} ~~such as~~ ^{was} all people had before this event. We now have the opportunity to live ~~wik~~ eternally with God, because of what Jesus Christ did. This calls for faith and belief, not fear and doubt.

(Illustration of "Safely Home.")

This is the faith and the belief that follows if we truly believe that Jesus arose from the dead. May those joyful words of many years ago ring and resound in our ears until that glorious day when we can stand in eternity and see Him in person, "He has risen, He is not here."

2. 4

The Hymn of Meditation (221)

JEFF (The Seventh candle is extinguished)

The Words of the Courtyard:

Jeff: And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came; and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said, "You were also with the Nazarene Jesus." But he denied it saying,

Ralph: "I neither know nor understand what you mean."

Jeff: And he went out into the gateway. And the maid saw him, and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

Ralph: "I do not know this man of whom you speak."

Jeff: And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

RALPH (The Eighth candle is extinguished)

The Hymn of Meditation (278)

JEFF The Ninth candle is extinguished)

The Words Before Pilate:

Jeff: Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers of the people, and said to them:

Ralph: "You brought this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him."

Jeff: But they all cried out together: "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!" Barabbas was a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder.

The Prelude

*Hymn 176

The Words of Praise:

Ralph: And then they drew near to Jerusalem, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples. And they went away, and found a colt tied and they untied it. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it; and He sat upon it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out:

Jeff: "Hosanna! Blessed be He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the kingdom of our father David that is coming. Hosanna in the highest!"

Hymn of Triumph MEDITATION (135)

JEFF LITANY
(The candles are lit from the Christ candle)

The Invocation:

Jeff: Almighty God, our Father, help us to be mindful of those events that occurred in the life of Jesus during that last week in Jerusalem. As we become aware of the manner in which the disciples, the members of the crowd, and others failed Him, we pray that You will quicken our hearts that we might not be guilty of the same sins today. Forgive us for those occasions when we have failed to exert a strong witness for you, and so guide through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words in the Temple:

Ralph: And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple. And He taught and said to them:

Jeff: "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.'"

Ralph: And the chief priests and scribes heard it and sought a way to destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the multitude was astonished at His teaching. Then a voice came from heaven. The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Jesus answered:

2.

Jeff: "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all men to myself."

Ralph: He said this to show what death He was to die. The crowd answered Him:

Jeff: "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is the Son of man?"

Ralph: The light is with you a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.

JEFF (The first candle is extinguished)

The Words In The Upper Room:

Jeff: (Matthew 26:20-28)

RALPH (The second candle is extinguished)

The Hymn of Meditation (S) (SP)

JEFF (The Third Candle is Extinguished)

The Words In The Garden:

Ralph: (Matthew 26:30-31, 36-46)

JEFF (The fourth candle is extinguished)

✓ The Hymn of Meditation 145 (WE SING)

RALPH (The fifth candle is extinguished)

The Words of The Trial:

Jeff: And they led Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes were assembled. And some stood up and bore false witness against Him saying:

Ralph: "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

Jeff: Yet not even so did their testimony agree.

Jeff: And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, ~~Is it thou that sayest these things?~~

Ralph: "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"

Jeff: But He was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked Him,

Ralph: "Are you the Christ the Son of the Blessed?"

Jeff: And Jesus said, "I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." And the high priest tore his mantle and said,

Ralph: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?"

Jeff: And they all condemned him as deserving death. And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And Pilate asked him,

Ralph: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jeff: And he answered him,

~~Ralph~~ "You have said so."

Jeff: And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him,

Ralph: "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you."

Jeff: But Jesus made no further answer so that Pilate wondered. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at great length; but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate.

(THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)

RALPH

6. JEFF

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, woman, behold your son! Then he said to the disciple, Behold, your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), I thirst. A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished.

Ralph: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jeff: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Ralph: Then Jesus crying with a loud voice, said,

Jeff: Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!

Ralph: And having said this he breathed his last.

~~And he cried with a loud voice, saying, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? And he said, Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit: And he breathed his last.~~
And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, Truly this was the Son of God!

JEFF (The Twelfth candle is extinguished)

The Solo: Were You There When They Crucified
My Lord.

Ralph The CHRIST candle is Extinguished

The Silent Departure

MY COPY

Jeff (continued)

Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out: "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Ralph: "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving of death; I will therefore chastise him and release him."

Jeff: But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him," they shouted. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted.

RALPH (The Tenth candle is extinguished)

The Hymn 161

JEFF (The Eleventh candle is extinguished)

The Words On The Cross:

Ralph: And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said,

Jeff: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Ralph: And they cast lots to divide his garments. One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him saying,

Jeff: "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Ralph: But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power." And he said to him,

Jeff: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.